

Odyssey Vocabulary

Books 1-12

self-effacing (adj) – tending to be modest about achievements and avoiding undue attention

hubris (noun) – excessive pride or arrogance; leads to downfall of a hero

timorous (adj) – timid, fearful about the future

impetus (noun) – something that provides energy or motivation to start or accomplish a goal

courteous (adj) – polite, respectful, or considerate in manner

squander (verb) – waste (something, esp. money or time) in a reckless and foolish manner

egregious (adj) – conspicuously bad or offensive to an extraordinary degree

malice (noun) – the intention or desire to do evil; ill will

placate (verb) – to make one less angry, upset, or hostile by doing or saying things designed to please

audacity (noun) – the willingness to take bold risks; rude or disrespectful behavior

Books 13-24

flout (verb) – to show contempt for a law or convention by openly disobeying or defying it

indignation (noun) – anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment or situation

vagrant (noun) – a person without a settled home who wanders and lives by begging

ruse (noun) – a clever trick or plot used to deceive others

portent (noun) – ominous or prophetic indication of things to come

auspicious (adj) – favorable; promising; marked by lucky signs or good omens

formidable (adj) – difficult to deal with or overcome

reprisal (noun) – strong or violent retaliation in response to an enemy's action

rectify (verb) – to put something right, to fix

superfluous (adj) – unnecessary; in excess of what is needed